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The Speaker's Advisory Group on Russia



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Editors: Broadcast quality video of yesterday's Echo Moscow interview is available.

Policy Chairman Cox, in Moscow for Gusinsky Arrest, Says Media Freedom Threatened

Gusinsky's Magazine, Radio Station Interviewed Cox Hours Before Arrest

WASHINGTON, DC (Wednesday, June 14, 2000)—The Moscow arrest of a magazine and radio owner occurred just hours after both the magazine and the radio station interviewed Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA), the Chairman of the House Policy Committee and the Speaker's Advisory Group on Russia.

Vladimir A. Gusinsky, the owner of *Itogi* magazine and Ekho Moskvyy radio, was reportedly being held in one of Russia's worst prisons today. Both *Itogi* magazine and Ekho Moskvyy interviewed Cox in Moscow yesterday, just hours before the arrest.

Chairman Cox was interviewed in the studios of Gusinsky's Ekho Moskvyy radio from 12:15 p.m. until 1 p.m. yesterday. The studio was the same in which President Clinton was interviewed a week earlier. A reporter from Gusinsky's *Itogi* magazine was one of six journalists to meet with Chairman Cox at a Moscow coffee shop at 10 a.m. yesterday, along with writers from the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, *Vedomosti*, and Knight-Ridder/Tribune.

"It is particularly troubling that the owner of the radio station that broadcast my remarks live to Muscovites yesterday for nearly an hour was arrested moments after I left the studio," Chairman Cox said. "Coming on the heels of the arrest of journalist Andrei Babitsky for his Chechnya reporting, this latest incident requires President Putin personally to defend press freedom in Russia."

"Because I have been able to personally avail myself of these freedoms in Moscow, I feel a responsibility to stand up for those who may be punished for broadcasting my views," Congressman Cox said.

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